

The Highway Bill is Part of a Long-Term Plan and Agenda to Create Jobs

- The Highway Bill is part of a 12-point Republican Job's Agenda that creates an environment to grow jobs through lower taxation and less litigation, sensible regulation, greater research and development, quality education and a strong infrastructure.
- We will not be satisfied until every worker that wants a job can find a job, but we have reason to be hopeful and believe our pro-growth policies are working. Over 3 million new jobs have been created in less than two years and the economy has grown 13 consecutive quarters. (Q1 GDP will be released 4/28/05)
- We have already passed Class Action Reform and soon will be working on a comprehensive Energy Bill, the Republican Senate is working on behalf of the American people.

Highway Bill Necessary to Maintain Infrastructure

- A safe, effective transportation system is the foundation of a growing economy. (EPW)
- According to the Federal Highway Administration, it will cost nearly \$76 billion a year to maintain the nation's highways and bridges from 2001 to 2020, with that total split evenly between states and the federal government. (RPC)
- A comprehensive reauthorization is necessary to eliminate the future funding uncertainty that has put many longer-term (and hence more expensive) projects on hold. (RPC)

Provides a Boost to Employment

- The Department of Transportation estimates that each \$1 billion in federal highway spending leads to 47,576 "person years" in employment benefits. This includes jobs in the highway construction sector, as well as jobs created in related industries such as stone, concrete, and fuel. (RPC)
- The same \$1 billion investment yields \$500 million in new orders for the manufacturing sector and \$500 million spread throughout other sectors of the economy. (EPW)
- If we fail to send a bill to the President by May 31st, states' federal funding uncertainty will potentially force states to delay putting these projects out for bid. According to the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), an estimated 90,000 jobs are at stake. (EPW)



Senate Republican Jobs Agenda for the 109th Congress:

- Reduce the tax burden on American taxpayers and businesses
– Extend the lower dividend and capital-gain tax rates and the higher small business equipment expensing provisions through 2010, while working to repeal the death tax.
- Energy Bill – Allow American businesses the opportunity to provide reliable and affordable supplies of energy to meet America's growing needs while reducing its dependence on foreign sources of energy.
- Highway Bill – Provide equitable and reliable funding for necessary infrastructure projects.
- Free Trade Legislation – Approve negotiated agreements that bolster the U.S. economy and expand American job opportunities.
- Trade Promotion Authority – Extend President's authority to negotiate additional trade agreements to open world markets for American businesses and consumers.
- Asbestos Bill – Pass asbestos reform that will save American jobs and help injured workers. Target help to those workers injured by asbestos and protect businesses from frivolous lawsuits.
- Class Action Reform – Reduce junk lawsuits by streamlining the legal process to ensure that injured Americans receive compensation.
- Welfare Reform Reauthorization – Build on the success of previous welfare reform by expanding work opportunities and strengthening families.
- Workforce Investment Act – Provide American workers with enhanced opportunities to receive training for new and better jobs.
- Workplace Flexibility – Permit employers to establish voluntary compensatory and flexible time policies to give employees more choices.
- Enhanced Workplace Safety – Reform OSHA to increase compliance, reduce wasteful expenses and cut bureaucratic red tape in order to help minimize workplace accidents.
- Higher Education Reauthorization – Support accessibility and affordability of higher education for all students, and stronger links between post-secondary institutions and businesses.